

# Transportation News

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Deer Crashes on the Decline; Fewer Fatalities Statewide

### *IDOT/IDNR Officials Partner to Put Motorists on Alert to Help Prevent Deer Crashes*

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig announced today a significant decrease in fatalities related to deer vs. vehicle accidents statewide and says he is hopeful that trend continues. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) want to remind motorists that deer are more active during the fall, which increases the likelihood of vehicle crashes involving deer.

Statistics show that in 2008, there were 24,212 deer-vehicle crashes reported in Illinois. That's 814 fewer crashes than in 2007. The number of people injured in these crashes also decreased, from 928 in 2006 to 843 in 2007 and 758 in 2008. Two people were killed in Illinois in 2008, due to a vehicle crash involving a deer. That number decreased from five fatalities reported in 2007.

"Crashes involving deer are very difficult to avoid, which is why we strongly urge motorists to be alert and buckle up and motorcyclists to wear a helmet to help prevent injury or death," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig. "The fatal crashes involving deer have dropped significantly in the last year and we want to continue to see that number decrease, but we need your help."

Following standard safety practices can save lives, in the event of crashes involving deer. A nationwide study of vehicle-animal crashes conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows that 60% of people killed riding in vehicles were not wearing seat belts, and 65% of motorcyclists killed were not wearing helmets.

"Deer are most active during dawn and dusk and that means motorists need to be on alert, especially when driving to and from work," said IDNR Director Marc Miller. "Keep a mental log of places you drive where deer are seen regularly and slow down in those areas. And if you see one deer cross the road, always assume there are more to follow."

The top 10 Illinois counties for deer-vehicle accidents in 2008 were:

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**[Illinois Department of Transportation](#)**

Cook – 1008  
Peoria – 642  
Madison – 630  
Pike – 617  
Will – 570  
Lake – 553  
Kane – 524  
Sangamon 516  
LaSalle – 510  
Fulton – 431

Suggestions for motorists to avoid deer-vehicle accidents include:

- *Be particularly cautious at dusk and dawn, when deer are most active.*
- *Reduce speed and be prepared to stop on roads where deer may be present.*
- *Deer may cross the roadway and double back across the road surface. Make sure deer have moved away, before proceeding.*
- *Be mindful that several others may follow a single deer near or across a road.*
- *Keep track of locations where deer have been seen in the past, to avoid being surprised by deer crossing roads.*
- *Avoid swerving into oncoming traffic or off the road if deer are on the roadway. Instead, slow to a stop and wait for the deer to move along.*
- *Drivers encountering deer on the roadway should try flashing their headlights from bright to dim or honking their horn to encourage the deer to move on.*
- *Drivers can alert other motorists to the presence of deer by tapping their brakes.*

If a deer-vehicle accident does occur, drivers and passengers involved should provide assistance to anyone injured. Contact local, county or state law enforcement. **Do not** attempt to remove a dead or injured deer from a busy roadway. Illinois law requires all accidents resulting in damage of \$500 or more to be reported and an accident report to be filed with police.

The driver involved in an accident involving a deer may take possession of the animal. If the driver does not want it, any Illinois resident may claim the deer. Anyone possessing the deer

must keep a personal record of the date the deer was claimed, the sex of the animal, the location of the accident, and the place where the deer or deer parts are stored. This information must be kept until the deer is consumed or no longer in the possession of any person. This information must be provided to any law enforcement officer investigating the death and possession of the deer.

Those taking possession of vehicle-killed deer are not required to phone in a report and obtain a registration number for the deer, unless the deer is taken to a taxidermist or tannery. If the deer is to be taken to a taxidermist or tannery, please call the IDNR Office of Law Enforcement at (217) 782-6431 to obtain a tag, before delivering the deer.

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IL DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ACCUMULATED TOTALS

Database: CISReports

10/08/2009

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Deer Crashes by County

Selection Criteria: Year: 2008

County: (ALL)

Route Number: All Roads

COUNTY	TOTAL	NUMBER OF CRASHES		PROPERTY DAMAGE	TOTAL KILLED	TOTAL INJURED
		FATAL	INJURY			
ADAMS	417	0	16	401	0	21
ALEXANDER	71	0	3	68	0	4
BOND	156	0	4	152	0	4
BOONE	89	0	0	89	0	0
BROWN	165	0	1	164	0	1
BUREAU	414	0	8	406	0	8
CALHOUN	96	0	2	94	0	2
CARROLL	172	0	1	171	0	2
CASS	150	0	2	148	0	2
CHAMPAIGN	247	0	8	239	0	8
CHRISTIAN	161	0	2	159	0	2
CLARK	213	0	10	203	0	12
CLAY	164	0	4	160	0	4
CLINTON	134	0	2	132	0	2
COLES	208	0	6	202	0	6
COOK	1,008	0	33	975	0	37
CRAWFORD	342	0	5	337	0	5
CUMBERLAND	186	0	5	181	0	5
DEKALB	139	0	5	134	0	5
DEWITT	136	0	2	134	0	3
DOUGLAS	64	0	0	64	0	0
DUPAGE	186	0	9	178	0	10
EDGAR	142	0	5	137	0	5
EDWARDS	83	0	0	83	0	0
EFFINGHAM	255	0	8	247	0	10
FAYETTE	237	0	9	228	0	9
FORD	53	0	1	52	0	1
FRANKLIN	263	0	10	253	0	13
FULTON	431	0	10	421	0	11
GALLATIN	64	0	3	61	0	3
GREENE	160	0	9	151	0	12
GRUNDY	197	0	3	194	0	3
HAMILTON	118	0	2	116	0	2
HANCOCK	276	0	7	269	0	8
HARDIN	40	0	2	38	0	2
HENDERSON	145	0	4	141	0	5
HENRY	262	0	2	260	0	2
IROQUOIS	206	0	3	203	0	4
JACKSON	354	0	7	347	0	8
JASPER	117	0	1	116	0	1
JEFFERSON	412	0	10	402	0	10
JERSEY	208	0	5	203	0	6
JO DAVIESS	224	0	2	222	0	2
JOHNSON	163	0	2	161	0	2
KANE	524	1	24	499	1	31
KANKAKEE	134	0	6	128	0	8
KENDALL	118	0	6	112	0	9
KNOX	142	0	12	130	0	14
LAKE	553	0	9	544	0	13
LASALLE	510	0	21	489	0	22
LAWRENCE	170	0	0	170	0	0
LEE	265	0	6	259	0	9

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COUNTY	TOTAL	NUMBER OF CRASHES		PROPERTY DAMAGE	TOTAL KILLED	TOTAL INJURED
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LIVINGSTON	127	0	6	121	0	6
LOGAN	150	0	4	146	0	4
MACON	358	0	10	348	0	13
MACOUPIN	317	0	7	310	0	7
MADISON	630	0	14	616	0	15
MARION	305	0	8	297	0	9
MARSHALL	124	0	4	120	0	4
MASON	153	0	4	149	0	4
MASSAC	158	0	6	152	0	6
MCDONOUGH	234	0	7	227	0	7
MCHENRY	366	0	6	360	0	6
MCLEAN	232	0	12	220	0	13
MENARD	115	0	4	111	0	4
MERCER	95	0	2	93	0	2
MONROE	139	0	3	136	0	3
MONTGOMERY	238	0	5	233	0	6
MORGAN	244	0	7	237	0	7
MOULTRIE	133	0	5	128	0	5
OGLE	264	0	5	259	0	7
PEORIA	642	0	30	612	0	34
PERRY	246	0	7	239	0	9
PIATT	99	0	5	94	0	5
PIKE	617	0	5	612	0	6
POPE	42	0	1	41	0	1
PULASKI	101	0	1	100	0	1
PUTNAM	134	0	5	129	0	5
RANDOLPH	319	0	7	312	0	7
RICHLAND	144	0	5	139	0	10
ROCK ISLAND	360	0	20	340	0	22
SALINE	258	0	7	251	0	8
SANGAMON	516	0	20	496	0	22
SCHUYLER	207	0	2	205	0	2
SCOTT	111	0	4	107	0	4
SHELBY	219	0	1	218	0	1
ST. CLAIR	411	1	9	401	1	12
STARK	65	0	2	63	0	2
STEPHENSON	251	0	6	245	0	8
TAZEWELL	428	0	12	416	0	15
UNION	160	0	4	156	0	5
VERMILION	278	0	10	268	0	12
WABASH	86	0	2	84	0	2
WARREN	155	0	7	148	0	9
WASHINGTON	136	0	0	136	0	0
WAYNE	236	0	7	229	0	8
WHITE	240	0	6	234	0	7
WHITESIDE	252	0	7	245	0	10
WILL	570	0	12	558	0	12
WILLIAMSON	322	0	5	317	0	7
WINNEBAGO	290	0	7	283	0	7
WOODFORD	191	0	8	183	0	9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24,212</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>23,551</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>758</b>